



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 4, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 4, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 5:00 pm. Weather conditions were cloudy in the morning and mostly clear in the afternoon. Temperatures ranged from 56°F in the morning to 60°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the south side of the Central Basin and the north side of the West Basin, movement of bricks along the Southeast Channel inlet, the completion of installation of PVC irrigation lines along the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, and planting in the berm. Over the weekend, a new silt fence was installed along the periphery of the basin and pickleweed was planted along the perimeter of the West Basin Mudflat. Trash screens were installed at the Tide Gates and Stormwater Inlet. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area.

6:30 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. There is slightly more water in the Basin than last week. There is one American Coot swimming in the Central Basin water north of the berm.

7:00 am. Biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training focusing on overall wildlife awareness and this morning's sightings with special attention to Monarch butterflies.

7:08 am. Two ducks are wading in the East Basin, One Great Egret and two Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead due south.

7:27 am. A Ring-billed Gull and an American Crow fly south.

7:36 am. No work is being performed in the Southeast Channel. One Ring-billed Gull flies east, a Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched in the trees far east of the Tide Gates. Workers install irrigation lines near the tide gates. Two Ring-billed Gulls fly south. The American Coot is now in the Central Basin.

7:50 am. Workers begin to load the sandbag berm from the Stormwater Inlet to the staging area north of the East Basin.

8:15 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in the powerlines near the Pump House. An American Crow comes in from the north and lands on the south wall of the East Basin. Plants are now being staged for planting in the West Basin.

8:38 am. Two American Crows fly overhead from west to east but do not land.

9:03 am. Crews begin to remove a portion of the fence along Admiralty Way to ease the disposal of used biologs. An American Crow lands on top of the powerlines of the Northwest Peninsula.

9:25 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the East Basin Mud.

9:31 am. A Monarch Butterfly is spotted in the Southeast Channel near the Pump House.

9:45 am. A Great Heron flies west across the Basin, but does not land. A Say's Phoebe is in the mud of the East Basin near workers. A Say's Phoebe and two Black Phoebes are in the mud of the East Basin. Two Say's Phoebes are near the Construction Trailer.

10:40 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the East Basin, a Say's Phoebe is in the Southeast Channel.

10:50 am. A Monarch Butterfly is seen by the Pump House and flies north out of sight. A Say's Phoebe flies south across the East Channel to perch on a wooden stake. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the East Basin. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake on the south side of the East Basin. Two American Crows fly across the Basin from East to West but do not land.

11:00 am. A Black Phoebe moves between wooden stakes on the south side of the Central Basin. A second Black Phoebe can be seen flying around the East Basin.

11:13 am. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are in the Southeast Channel. A Monarch butterfly is seen by the Pump House and flies out of the area. Crews begin moving the bricks to a large single pile by the Boat Ramp. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake just west of the Pump House. A second Monarch Butterfly is seen in the Channel.

11:20 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the cement structure behind the southeast trees.

11:30 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:15 pm. Construction resumes.

12:43 pm. A Snowy Egret flies south across the West Basin, but does not land. The American Coot is still in the West Basin, now by the Tide Gates.

1:00 pm. A Black Phoebe is in the East Basin perched on a wooden stake.

1:17 pm. A Say's Phoebe flies from the south to the north end of the Central Basin to the parapet wall.

1:24 pm. A Black Phoebe is foraging in the East Basin.

1:46 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies from the south side of the Basin to the north end of the Central Basin. The crews continue grading along the south end of the Basin, digging a larger hole near the tide gates, moving bricks at the boat ramp, and testing the irrigation systems on both peninsulas.

2:09 pm. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the southeast Trees.

2:20 pm. A Say's Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler jump around the biologists at the south end of the East Basin. A Black Phoebe is in the East Basin. A worker begins to remove the sandbags from the Southeast Channel. Another worker begins to lay plastic coverings over the dirt piles north of the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler swoops in from the south and lands on the exposed pipes along the south end of the East Channel.

2:35 pm. A Say's Phoebe, a Black Phoebe, and a Yellow-rumped warbler forage near a vacant tractor in the freshly graded soil. A worker is tamping the soil above the irrigation lines on the Northwest Peninsula. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the trees by the Tide Gates. Two Ring-billed gulls fly overhead of the West Basin, but do not land.

3:00 pm. A Black Phoebe is in the dirt of the south side of the Central Basin. Two workers begin restoring the fence along Admiralty Way. The work has stopped at the Southeast Channel.

3:23 pm. A Ring-Billed Gull flies overhead due south.

3:30 pm. A black Phoebe is on the exposed pipes by the Southeast Tree.

3:41 pm. Several individual Ring-billed and Western Gulls begin to fly south. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake on the North side of the East Basin.

3:55 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the corner of the West Channel between the parapet wall and construction fence.

4:04 pm. A Rock Pigeon flies overhead but does not land. A Western Gull flies south. A Great Blue Heron flies over the parking lot headed east, but does not land.

4:18 pm. Two Ring-billed Gulls fly south overhead. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies in from the south to perch on the trees east of the Tide Gates. A Black Phoebe is on a vacant tractor in the same area. A Dark-eyed Junco is foraging below the same trees.

4:44 pm. Several Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead due south. Construction stops.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Three monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

All grading throughout the basin has been done in accordance with approved plans.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the late morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 11:00 am, with the exception of American Crows, Black Phoebes, Say's Phoebes, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing

to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.

4. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers early in the morning, and of smaller birds foraging along the edges of the Central and East Basins. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way near the trees.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 4, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 4, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	One individual overhead
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	One individual on powerlines near Pump House
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	One individual wading between West and Central Basins
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	One individual flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	One individual flying south
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	One individual foraging in trees by Tide Gates

Figures of water level during biological monitoring on January 4, 2016 are provided below.



**Figure 1**  
01-04-16  
West Basin  
facing  
northwest  
10:25 am  
  
View of  
West Basin  
Plantings  
of  
pickleweed



**Figure 2**  
01-04-16  
West Basin  
facing west  
10:27 am  
  
West Basin  
plantings  
and view  
of -1 and  
0ft  
elevation  
markers





**Figure 3**

01-04-16  
Central  
Basin  
facing  
north  
10:27 am

Central  
Basin view  
of -1 and  
0ft  
elevation  
markers



**Figure 3**

01-04-16  
Central  
Basin  
Facing  
south  
10:29 am

View of  
Central  
Basin  
elevation  
markers





**Figure 4**

01-04-16  
Central  
Basin  
facing  
southeast  
1028

Close-up of  
elevation  
markers in  
Central  
Basin





## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 5, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

### **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 5, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 4:00 pm. Weather conditions were rainy, the area received 1.49 inches of rain. Temperatures ranged from 56°F in the morning to 55°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with storm maintenance (repairing fallen perimeter fencing, mitigating sediment runoff, etc.), opening of Tide Gates attempted removal of the plug in the east Tide Gate. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

### **Biologist's Field Log**

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area.

6:20 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. There is very little water in the Basin. The rain begins to fall at approximately 6:45am. An American Coot and two Mallards are seen in the West Basin. A Western Gull flies north.

Mr. Rick Sun  
January 5, 2016  
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7:00 am. The Contract Superintendent informs the crew that they will be cancelling work for the day. The biological monitor remains on site until all crew leaves. The Contract Superintendent and four crew members remain on site.

7:15 am. A delivery truck brings two large pieces of heavy equipment and take one piece. Shortly after the crew breaks.

10:00 am. Crew returns to discuss the plan of opening the Tide Gates. A Double-Crested Cormorant flies into the West Basin and begins to feed. Two Mallards are in the Central Basin.

11:00 am. The crew begins to open west Tide Gate. There are no birds in the water near the basin. The runoff is causing erosion of the topsoil near the Tide Gates, the crew begins to bring sandbags in to successfully control the flow.

12:14 pm. Several Ring-billed Gulls, Western Gulls, and American Crows fly overhead but do not land.

12:30 pm. The construction fencing along Washington is blown over to the sidewalk by high winds. The crew begins to repair it.

1:00 pm. The crew is back at the Tide Gates attempting to remove the plug from the east Gate to lower the water level quicker.

1:28 pm. A Snowy Egret stands on the shore western shore of the West Basin.

2:16 pm. Two Mallards fly into the West Basin toward the Central Basin.

2:20 pm. The workers continue attempting to remove the plug on the east Tide Gate. A Double-crested Cormorant flies into the West Basin and begins to feed.

3:22 pm. A Snowy Egret lands in the same area and stands on the shore.

3:40 pm. The crew cannot remove the plug in time as the basin is filling with tide water and work ends for the day after the gates are closed.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No planting occurred today.

No monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers early in the morning, and waterfowl wading in the basin. No Phoebe or Warblers were observed today.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 5, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 5, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on powerlines
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Two individuals seen in the West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Two individuals along the bank of the West Basin



Figures of water level during biological monitoring on January 5, 2016 are provided below.





**Figure 2**

01-05-16  
West Basin  
facing north  
8:25 am

Pickleweed  
along 0ft  
elevation



**Figure 3**

01-05-16  
Central  
Basin facing  
north 12:04  
pm

Water level  
at Central  
Basin



**Figure 4**

01-05-16  
West Basin  
facing  
northwest  
12:04 pm

Water level  
at West  
Basin



**Figure 5**

01-05-16  
Central  
Basin facing  
north 12:44  
pm

Water level  
at Central  
Basin





**Figure 6**

01-05-16  
West Basin  
facing  
northwest  
12:44 pm

Water level  
at West  
Basin



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 6, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

### Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 6, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 10:00am. Weather conditions were overcast with intermittent rain. Temperatures ranged from 48°F in the early morning to 51°F in the late morning. Overnight, there was no measurable rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with the attempted removal of the plug in the east Tide Gate outlet, repairing a fallen perimeter fence, repairing fallen safety fence by trees east of the tide gates, and electrical work on the Tide Gate actuators. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

### Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is closed and two crew members are present in the Parking Lot.

6:40 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment near the Tide Gates and the West Basin as that will be where the work is conducted for the day. There are three Double-crested Cormorants wading in the West Basin.

7:10 am. Biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training focusing on the wildlife in the area and work begins shortly after.

7:35 am. Three Mallards are in the Central Basin north of the Berm. Several California, Ring-Billed, and Western Gulls along with American Crows fly overhead in all directions but do not land.

7:47 am. Two Brown Pelicans are seen flying south out of the area of the Central Basin. A Double-crested Cormorant flies into the West Basin north of the Berm to feed.

8:00 am. A group of Rock Pigeons and Gulls are perched on the rooftop of Killer Café across Admiralty Way. Crew begins with plug removal.

8:19 am. The plug cannot be removed, the tide gate closes.

8:25 am. A fish is seen between the Tide Gate and trash screen, a worker attempts to remove it-but the fish is no longer visible and was not touched.

8:30 am. Four Lesser Scaups are wading in the West Basin heading towards the Central Basin. A Snowy Egret lands just east of the Tide Gate walls on bank of the southeast side of the West Basin. A Double-crested Cormorant swims in the West Basin on the south side of the Berm near the Tide Gate.

8:40 am. A California Gull is perched on the light post north of the West Basin. A Double-crested Cormorant flies into the Central Basin south of the Berm. Two Snowy Egrets land on Berm near Tide Gates.

8:50 am. A worker repairs the safety fencing near the Tide Gates that had fallen over. Crew repairs fallen fence along Washington.

9:05 am. A Double-crested Cormorant is in the West Basin north of the Berm.

9:11 am. The Lesser Scaups leave the basin heading west.

9:51 am. The west Tide Gate is opened at two feet.

10:00 am. An American Coot is in the West Basin on the south side of the berm. A Double-crested Cormorant flies in from the north to land in Central Basin. Gulls fly overhead but do not land.

11:00 am. It is determined that no more work with heavy machinery will be done, and the Biological Monitor leaves for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.



No planting occurred today.

No monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the late morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 11:00 am, with the exception of American Crows and Gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
4. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers throughout the day with occasional waterfowl wading in the Basin, and Snowy Egrets standing on the banks near or in the West Basin.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 6, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 6, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Several individuals wading in the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several individuals overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Four individuals along the banks of the West Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Four individuals wading in Central Basin

Figures of water level during biological monitoring on January 6, 2016 are provided below.

 A wide-angle photograph of a large, shallow water basin. The water is calm, reflecting the overcast sky. In the background, a line of tall palm trees stands against a cloudy sky. To the right, a dirt path or construction area is visible, with a yellow excavator in the distance. The foreground shows a dark, possibly lined, edge of the basin.	<p>01-06-16 Basin facing northwest 7:53 am</p> <p>Full view of Basin</p>
 A photograph showing a different section of the water basin. The water is still, reflecting the sky. In the background, a row of palm trees is visible, followed by a line of residential houses with red roofs. The foreground shows the dark, lined edge of the basin.	<p>01-06-16 Central Basin facing northwest 8:12 am</p> <p>Central Basin and Northwest Peninsula showing water level</p>



01-06-16  
Northeast  
Peninsula  
facing north  
7:53 am

View of  
pickleweed  
and water  
level at the  
Northeast  
Peninsula



01-06-16  
Northwest  
Peninsula  
facing north  
7:53 am

View of  
pickleweed  
and water  
level at  
Northwest  
Peninsula





01-06-16  
West Basin  
facing  
northwest  
7:53 am

West Basin  
water level  
with slight  
view of  
pickleweed  
on the  
peninsula



01-06-16  
West Basin  
facing  
northwest  
8:12 am

Rising  
water level  
in the West  
Basin



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 7, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

### **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 7, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 3:00 pm. Weather conditions were partly cloudy. Temperatures ranged from 46°F in the early morning to 59°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was 0.1 inches of rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with the attempted removal of the plug in the east Tide Gate outlet, repairing a fallen perimeter fence, repairing the fallen safety fence by trees east of the tide gates, and electrical work on the Tide Gate actuators. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

### **Biologist's Field Log**

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is closed and no crew members are present in the Parking Lot. The construction site gate is opened.

6:44 am. First crew members arrive on site, followed by the Inspector of Record.

7:00 am, Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. A Double-crested Cormorant and a California Gull fly overhead due north, but do not land. There is no visible wildlife in the Basin.



8:00 am. It is determined that there will be no work until the late morning, the Biological Monitor goes off site.

10:30 am. The Biological Monitor returns on site. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is seen perched on the trees just east of the Tide Gates.

10:47 am. Both Tide Gates are opened to 6ft.

10:51 am. Two American Wigeons are wading in the West Basin north of the Berm. One American Coot is in the West Basin near the west Tide Gate.

11:10 am. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are perched in the trees east of the Tide Gates. One Peregrine Falcon surrounded by five American Crows soars over the parking lot then heads southeast.

11:28 am. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake on the Northeast Peninsula. A Dark-eyed Junco is in the west corner of the West Basin behind the perimeter fencing. A California Gull flies over the parking lot headed south.

12:18 pm. A Snowy Egret is in the Central Basin mudflat.

12:28 pm. The crew begins to remove the plug in the east Tide Gate culvert. A Snowy Egret moves to the West Basin next to the west Tide Gate.

1:01 pm. A Snowy Egret is on the east side of the Tide Gates near crews, but moves away shortly. Ring-billed and Western Gulls fly over the Tide Gates, but do not land.

1:19 pm. A Double-crested Cormorant skids into the West Basin west of the Berm.

1:33 pm. An American Coot is in the West Basin. A telescopic forklift is used to pull the plug out of the water.

1:38 pm. A Snowy Egret is on the West Basin Bank. The plug is successfully removed. The Biological Monitor goes off site after confirming there will be no more use of heavy machinery.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No planting occurred today.

No monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the late morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 11:00 am, with the exception of American Crows and Gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
4. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers throughout the day with occasional waterfowl wading in the Basin, and Snowy Egrets standing on the banks near or in the West Basin.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 7, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 7, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Several individuals wading in the Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals wading in the West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Four individuals along the banks of the West Basin
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One individual flying overhead in the parking lot
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Two individuals in trees near the Tide Gates
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	One individual behind west parapet wall

Mr. Rick Sun  
January 7, 2016  
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Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	One individual near the Northeast Peninsula
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DRAFT



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 8, 2016*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

### Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 8, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M. Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 3:45 pm. Weather conditions were mostly clear. Temperatures ranged from 51°F in the early morning to 58°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with brick work at the boat ramp, grading and removal of asphalt at the bike path entrance off Washington, securing of the perimeter fence, and the assembly of irrigation lines in the parking lot. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

### Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and crew members are present in the Parking Lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitor conducts initial assessment. Three American Wigeons are wading in the East basin. Three other ducks (unidentifiable) circle overhead along with several gulls, but do not land.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training is conducted with overall wildlife awareness and what was observed in the morning and over the last two days.



7:28 am. An American Coot is wading in the West Basin. Crews begin to repair the fence along Admiralty. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the Northeast Peninsula wall. An American Coot flies over the basin, but does not land. A Double-crested Cormorant and several Rock Pigeons circle the Basin, but do not land. A Black Phoebe flies out of the East Basin bank and perches on a home across Washington.

7:44 am. An American Crow walks along the barriers of the Stormwater Inlet. One Yellow-rumped Warbler and three Anna's Hummingbirds are in the trees along the bike path; there is a lot of activity in these trees.

8:10 am. Several American Crows are foraging in the mudflat of the West Basin and Northwest Peninsula. A Snowy Egret is on the south bank of the Central Basin. The American Coot is now in the West Basin south of the Berm near the Tide Gates. A California Gull flies south overhead, but does not land.

8:23 am. The Snowy Egret is now on the Central Basin mudflat.

8:39 am. A Black Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are perched on wooden stakes at the delta of the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the trees far east of the Tide Gates.

9:10 am. A Double-crested Cormorant skids into the East Basin to wade.

9:19 am. A Western Gull flies overhead.

9:45 am. A Say's Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are perched in a wooden stakes in the Southeast Channel. A Western Gull flies overhead due north. A Say's Phoebe flies from the trees along the bike path across the Southeast Channel and off site.

9:56 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched in a vacant tractor. A Say's Phoebe flies across the Basin.

10:20 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake along the Southeast Channel. The Snow Egret nears the work area in the Southeast Channel.

10:27 am. A Black Phoebe is perched in a rock pile in the Southeast Channel. The Snowy Egret flies out of the Channel to the south bank of the East Basin. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are foraging on the bank of the East Basin. A Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the Southeast Channel.

10:40 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the trees near the Tide Gates.

10:58 am. A Black Phoebe and Yellow-rumped Warbler are on the Northeast Peninsula. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched along the staged materials next to the Stormwater Inlet.

11:14 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is heard but not seen in the trees near the bike path by the East Basin.

11:45 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a powerline. The Double-crested Cormorant is basking on the East Basin. A Say's Phoebe is in the staging area by the East Basin. The crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

1:00 pm. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are flying near the Northeast Peninsula. A Snowy Egret is wading in the East Basin.

1:14 pm. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wall of the Stormwater Inlet. Crews repair the silt fence along the Northeast Peninsula. Two Snowy Egrets circle over the basin, one heads south, the other flies into the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is perched on the construction fence near the Central Basin. A Double-crested Cormorant skids into the West Basin next to the west Tide Gate. An American Coot is wading in the West Basin.

1:30 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the trees next to the Tide Gates. A Snow Egret is in the Stormwater Inlet. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the bank in the south side of the Central Basin. A Ring-billed Gull flies overhead. There is concentrated activity along the north edge of the East Basin –a Say's Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake, a Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, and Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are near the inlet of the Southeast Channel and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are on the dirt piles nearby.

1:50 pm. A second Snowy Egret startles the one in the Stormwater Inlet and both fly out of view.

2:03 pm. A Snowy Egret is back in the Stormwater Inlet. The Double-crested Cormorant flies out of the Basin. Several Yellow-rumped warblers and Say's Phoebes are in the trees near the Tide Gates.

2:20 pm. Two California Gulls fly overhead due south. The Tide Gates are opened to drain the basin. The Tide Gate plug is removed from the area using the telescopic tractor. A Ring-billed Gull flies overhead.

2:41 pm. A Ring-billed Gull flies overhead due north. There are several Dark-eyed Juncos in the trees near the Tide Gates. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the trees far east of the Tide Gates.

2:56 pm. A Black Phoebe is on the bricks near the boat ramp. The Basin Level has decreased by 1-2 feet, and the Tide Gates are closed.

3:09 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler and Black Phoebe circle the area north of the East Basin and perch on a wooden stake. The American Coot is on the north side of the Berm in the Central Basin. The Snowy Egret is walking around the center of the East Basin.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day.

## Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No planting occurred today.

There was higher concentration of activity of the smaller birds in the trees today than in the past week.

No monarch butterflies were observed during the day. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the late morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 11:00 am, with the exception of American Crows and Gulls.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
4. Wildlife activity for today consisted flyovers throughout the day with occasional waterfowl wading in the Basin, and Snowy Egrets standing on the banks near or in the West Basin. With the absence of the rain, the Phoebe and Warblers had an increase in activity.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 8, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 8, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead

Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	At least two individuals wading in the Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	One individual wading in the West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Four individuals flying and wading in the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals around the entire site
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Several individuals in the trees next to the Tide Gates
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Several individuals around the entire site
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Three individuals in the trees along the bike path
American Wigeon	<i>Anas Americana</i>	Three individuals wading in the Basin